Vol. VIII. Numb. 78

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Rehearſal Reviv'd's *ſeditious Reflexions upon her Majeſty; his Clamour of the Church's Danger; his ſlandering the Diſſenters; his being againſt the Liberty of the Preſs, and the Toleration-Act, farther conſider'd.*

From **Wednesday**, October 26. to **Saturday**, October 29. 1709.

Country-m. YOU have put the *Rehearſal Reviv'd* in a mighty Rage, Maſter; he calls Names, and ſpits Fire at you, as if he were mad.

Obſ. Did the poor Animal know how little I regard the paultry Eruptions of his Choler, *Roger*, and how much he expoſes himſelf and his Cauſe by it, he would forbear that Way of Writing; but where Reaſon is wanting, Railing muſt ſupply its Place. That's the only Weapon the Faction have left.

Country-m. He charges you, with all the Whigs and moderate Church-men, to be Enemies to the Monarchy and Church, Maſter.

Obſ. 'Tis a terrible Misfortune for any Man, *Roger*, to be ſo far blinded with Paſſion and Rage, as to utter Calumnies which every Man knows to be falſe. The Monarchy and Church were both of 'em brought within an Ace of Ruin by ſuch Men as he, before the Revolution, and muſt infallibly have ſunk into Tyranny and Popery, had not the Whigs come ſeaſonably to their Reſcue and Support, and ſettl'd them again upon their old Foundations.

Country-m. How does that appear, Maſter? You ſee this Libeller not only denies it, but aſſerts the quite contrary.

Obſ. So much the better, *Roger*; for by this Means we plainly perceive, that the Faction who employ him, have neither Truth nor Honour: But every Body knows who it was that advanc'd the Power of the King, to the Ruin of our Laws and Conſtitution. We know who it was that abhor'd calling of Parliaments in their publick Addreſſes; who it was that concurr'd with the King, to rob our Corporations of their Charters, and reduc'd *London* to a Village, in order to enable the Crown to return all the Members from our Burroughs; which that Great Lawyer, Mr. *Pollexfen*, in his Argument upon the *Quo Warranto* againſt the City, ſaid, *brought* Magna Charta *it ſelf to the Stake.* Now, *Roger*, we know well enough it was not the Whigs who adviſ'd to thoſe Things. The Order of Council relating to that Subject, dated *Oct.* 17. 1688. is ſtill to be ſeen, with the Names of the Counſellors preſent at paſſing it, by which all Mayors, Sheriffs, Recorders, Town-Clerks, Aldermen, Common-Council-men, Aſſiſtants, Officers, Magiſtrates, Miniſters, Free-men, and other Members of Cities, Burroughs, and Towns corporate, which had or claim'd ſuch Offices or Places by Charter, Patent, or Grant, except ſuch Cities and Towns, whoſe Deeds of Surrender were inroll'd, or againſt whom Judgments in *Quo Warranto* were enter'd, were to be remov'd, diſplac'd, and diſcharg'd. This was an effectual Blow at the Houſe of Commons, *Roger*, and laid a Foundation alſo to ruin the Houſe of Lords, and our whole Conſtitution in Church and State; for as Mr. *Pollexfen* judiciouſly obſerv'd, 'If Corporations are forfeitable by the King's 'Power, Arch-biſhops, Biſhops, Deans, and Chap-'ters, Parſons, Vicars, Univerſities, Colleges, and 'Hoſpitals of all Sorts, are under the ſame Condition. We remember well enough how the Lord Biſhop of *London* was treated, by Virtue of this Power, becauſe he would not illegally ſuſpend Dr. *Sharp*, now Lord Arch-biſhop of *York*; what was done to both our Univerſities ſoon after; and how ſeven of our Biſhops were ſhut up in the *Tower*, for refuſing to order their Clergy to read the King's Declaration, wherein, by his diſpenſing Power, he pretended to repeal the penal Laws. They were not Whig Judges, who aſſerted, that the King had ſuch a Power: Nor was it the Whigs in our Univerſities, or the moderate Church-men, who, from their Pulpits, preach'd up that Power: Nor was it the Whig Biſhops, that accepted an Eccleſiaſtical high Commiſſion, to turn out thoſe Clergymen, and Heads and Fellows of Univerſities, that refuſ'd to concur with ſuch Meaſures.

Country-m. You have made it very plain, Maſter, that the Faction brought both Church and Monarchy to the Brink of Ruin; but the Libeller ſays, the Diſſenters concurr'd with the diſpenſing Power, for one of 'em ſo much as once open'd their Mouths againſt Popery, and that all their Preachers had Inſtructions not to ſay any Thing from their Pulpits, that would give Offence either to the King or his Religion.

Obſ. That's ſo notorious a Slander, *Roger*, as expoſes the Faction to the higheſt Degree. Had the Libeller been Maſter of the leaſt Ingenuity he would not have mention'd it, becauſe, as I have told you before, the High-Church did, from the Pulpit, Preſs, and Univerſities, defend that Power in the King, and ſeveral of their Biſhops join'd in the high Commiſſion, to put it in Execution; whereas there were very few of the diſſenting Preachers, and not one of 'em of Eſteem, that concurr'd in thoſe Meaſures, and the few that did, expoſ'd themſelves to the Reſentments of their Brethren by it. 'Tis alſo very well known, that when King *Charles* the IId granted a Toleration in 1672, by his diſpenſing Power, that Alderman *Love*, who was then a Member of Parliament, and a Diſſenter, voted in the Houſe againſt that Declaration, tho' he and all the Diſſenters had ſuffer'd ſeverely by thoſe Laws which the King pretended to diſpenſe with; and not only he, but other Diſſenters and Whigs voted alſo againſt it, as is own'd by Dr. *Burnet*, now Lord Biſhop of *Sarum*, in his Apology for the Church of *England*, againſt thoſe who charge her with Cruelty, publiſh'd with his eighteen Papers; and I ſuppoſe no Body will put this Libeller's Authority in the Ballance againſt his Lordſhip's. 'Tis alſo own'd by Mr. *Burridge*, Vicar-General of the Proceſs of *Connor*, in his *Hiſtoria nuperæ rerum Mutationis*, pag. 152 and 157, that the wiſer Diſſenters were very much troubl'd at the Impriſonment of the Biſhops, and were firmly perſwaded, that the King was not ſincere in his Declaration for Liberty of Conſcience, ſince he perſecuted the Biſhops for acting according to theirs. And, *Roger*, Coke, in his *Detection*, pag. 64. 2 Edit. 1697. ſays, 'That to his Knowledge many of the ſober thinking Men of the Diſſenters, did both dread and diſlike the King's Declaration, tho' they had been ſeverely perſecuted for ſeven Years by the King and the Tories; and every Body knows, that Mr. Coke was no Friend to Diſſenters.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, I think the Boldneſs of the Libeller's Reflexion, by which he would make

make the Diſſenters appear unworthy of a Toleration, is very well prov'd.

Obj. His Diſingenuity in upbraiding them with their Addreſſes, is alſo very plain, *Roger*, ſince all the World knows what ſullome Addreſſes the Faction made to K. *James* on his coming to the Crown, and what Flatteries they were guilty of, as is own'd by Mr. *Burridge*, pag. 12. who alſo very ingenuouſly tells us, pag. 5. That the Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience, encourag'd the King and his Miniſtry to attempt the Overthrow of the Church and State, tho' all the World knows they found themſelves fruſtly miſtaken; for many of thoſe who ſounded it loudeſt, and bound the Belief of it upon others, on Pain of Damnation, ſhew'd, that they did not believe one Word of it themſelves, and acted quite contrary to it, when King *James*'s Popiſh Prieſts began to put in for a Share of the Tythe-Pigs.

Country-m. I wonder they are not aſham'd to revive that Doctrine again, Maſter; eſpecially when at the ſame Time they fly in her Majeſty's Face, tell her there's three to one againſt her and her Adminiſtration, and upbraid her with Ingratitude to the Church. Thus they treat their own glorious Sovereign, while they pretend ſuch a mighty Reſpect for crown'd Heads, that they are angry at you and me, and ſay we are Enemies to Monarchy, becauſe we call the *French* King a Tyrant, which all *Europe* knows to be true, and the confederate Princes and States make War upon him for his Perjury and Tyranny, in uſurping the Dominions of others, contrary to his own ſolemn Oaths and Treaties, ratify'd by all that he himſelf accounts ſacred.

Obj. 'Tis no Matter what ſuch Men ſay, *Roger*; I declare my ſelf an Enemy to *French* and *Turkiſh* Monarchy, but have writ more for our limited *Britiſh* Monarchy, than all the Patrons of Slavery can anſwer.

Country-m. They are very uppiſh, Maſter; but I fancy they will meet with a Cooler ere long, otherwiſe they muſt be ſent to the *French* Hoſpital for *Incurables*.

Obj. You ſee they are very angry, *Roger*, at the Liberty of the Preſs, as well as at Liberty of Conſcience, becauſe their Doctrine of Slavery and Tyranny has been batter'd and expos'd by it.

Country-m. Yes, Maſter, they want ſuch a Licenſer and *Obſervator* again, as Sir *Roger L'Eſtrange*, to be a Guide to their inferior high-flying Clergymen. Then Mr. *Hoadly*, and ſuch other worthy Clergy-men, muſt hold their Peace, and no Body elſe muſt write or ſpeak againſt Paſſive-Obedience, or in Defence of the coercive Power, tho' the Faction ſhould every Day libel the Queen to her Face, as having been a Rebel and a Traytor to her Father, becauſe her Majeſty and her Husband, the late Prince, join'd ſuch as took Arms againſt thoſe, who, by King *James*'s Commiſſion, were overturning both Church and State; therefore 'tis the ſtrangeſt Thing in the World to me, that the Libeller ſhould be ſo vain, as to think his Clamour can make any Body believe the Church to be in Danger, when we have a Queen upon the Throne that ventur'd her Life in Defence of it, and whoſe exemplary Piety is one of its greateſt Ornaments, as well as Securities.

Obj. That's the very Thing which makes them cry out of the Church's being in Danger, *Roger*, becauſe her Majeſty join'd thoſe who took Arms againſt her Father's Male-Adminiſtration, contrary to their Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience; for thoſe Mens Church is nothing but Tyranny and Perſecution, a *Turkiſh* Prerogative and penal Laws, otherwiſe they would never cry out thus of the Danger of the Church, when we have two Arch-biſhops that ſtood up ſo ſtoutly in her Defence, and were both Sufferers on that Account, as far as the Malice of their Enemies could reach them; when we have ſo many other Biſhops that wrote ſo bravely in her Defence; and when we have a Lord Preſident of the Council, whoſe learned and unanſwerable Arguments contributed ſo much to the acquitting of the ſeven Biſhops that were ſhut up in the *Tower*.

Country-m. Aye, but the Toleration, the unlimited Toleration, is that which frightens the Libeller, Maſter.

Obj. To call the Toleration unlimited, is like the reſt of his Veracity, *Roger*. I prov'd in my laſt, that 'tis ſo far limited, as all who have the Benefit of it, are oblig'd to own and ſign the Church of *England*'s Doctrine, even the Quakers not excepted, ſince they own the divine Inſpiration of the *Bible*; and we have the Church of *England*'s Authority for it, in her Ordination of Prieſts, that they ſhould teach nothing as requir'd of Neceſſity to eternal Salvation, but what they are perſwaded may be concluded and prov'd by the Scripture; ſo that the Toleration, inſtead of endangering the Church, is a farther and greater Security to her, than ever ſhe had ſince the Reformation, now that they are all oblig'd to declare for the ſame Doctrine in the Main, and for the ſame Canon, without Exception, *Roger*; therefore the King and Parliament had good Reaſon to ſay, in the Preface to the Toleration-Act, that it was a Means to unite Proteſtants; which is the Thing in the World, that the Libellers dread moſt, becauſe it's againſt their Schemes of Tyranny and Perſecution, and an effectual Barrier againſt the Pretender.

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LONDON, Printed by *H. Meere*, and ſold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. 1709.